



County of San Bernardino • Department of Public Health
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

<http://www.sbcounty.gov/dehs>

Water Safety: Questions Please Call (909) 387-3171

In a disaster such as a fire, water systems will most likely suffer damage and safe water may not be available for consumption. For water safety questions please contact your local water provider. If your water provider is unavailable, please contact the Department of Environmental Health Safe Drinking Water Program at the phone number above. As a precaution, use bottled water if available for consumption purposes. If bottled water is not available, below you will find details on obtaining purified water.

There are different methods available to purify water:

- ❖ **Boiling:** Boiling is the safest method of purifying water. Bring water to a rolling boil for at least 1 minute. Increase boiling time to at least three minutes if you live at high elevations above 6500 feet. To improve taste, pour from one container to another several times.
- ❖ **Purification Tablets:** Available at most drug stores. Follow the directions on the package.
- ❖ **Bleach Purification:** Liquid household bleach (*sodium hypochlorite 5.25%*) can be used.
Add according to the table below.
Mix thoroughly; let stand for 30 minutes
Note: Household bleach that contains perfumes or ingredients other than sodium hypochlorite should not be used, as they may be toxic.

| Amount of Water | Clear Water | Cloudy Water |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 quart | 2 drops | 4 drops |
| 1 gallon | 8 drops | 16 drops |
| 5 gallons | ½ tsp. | 1 tsp. |
| 50 gallons | 1 tbsp. (3tsp.) | 2 tbsp. |

Vector Safety : Questions Please Call (909) 388-4600

In a disaster such as a fire, the number of rodents and wild animals will increase in neighborhoods that are not affected by the fires. The following are tips to a rodent free neighborhood.

- ❖ Minimize rodent population in your neighborhood by not leaving water and food outside, especially pet food, accessible to rodents and wild animals.
- ❖ **Drain or Dump:** Remove all standing water around your property where mosquitoes lay eggs such as birdbaths, green swimming pools, ponds, old tires, buckets, clogged gutters, or even puddles from leaky sprinklers.
- ❖ If you come in contact with deceased stray animals please contact the Animal Control Division at (909) 387-8064.